



## hoary bat

*Lasiurus cinereus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Chiroptera  
Family: Vespertilionidae

### Features

An adult hoary bat is very large for a Midwestern bat with a body length of five inches and a two-inch forearm. It is Iowa's largest bat, but the casual observer rarely sees it. Its brown-black hair has white on the tip. The belly is not frosted but is lighter than the back. The top of the tail is heavily furred. Brown fur extends on the underside of the wing to near the wrist.

### Natural History

The hoary bat may be found statewide as a migrant in spring and fall. Some females remain in the state in the summer. It is absent in the winter. It lives in trees and eats insects. It forages above water courses and meadows. It is a rather solitary bat that becomes active late after sundown. This bat flies quickly and in a straight line. Mating occurs in the fall, winter, or spring. Some females mate in the fall or winter and store sperm in the uterus until spring, when egg fertilization occurs. Young, usually two per female, are born mid-May to early June. The female may take the young with her while she forages, but this practice stops when the

young are about one week old. The hoary bat migrates north in April and May. The southward migration occurs in the fall and is completed by November.

### Habitats

bottomland forests

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

summer: statewide; migration: statewide

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.